

REMARKS

The undersigned requests a personal interview with the Examiner in charge of this application to discuss the issues raised below.

Claims 1-4 were rejected as being anticipated by Billado 2004/023899.

Claims 1-6 were rejected as being unpatentable over Florentino 4,541,542 in view of Malvasio.

Billado discloses a paint tray with a roller and a lid which is shaped to accommodate the handle of the roller and the roller portion. The tray has a rest for the handle of the roller.

Florentino has a paint tray cover with a wedge shaped protrusion to accommodate the handle of the roller.

Malvasio shows an air-tight painting tool container which does not appear to be a roller paint pan.

In view of the excellent art cited by the Examiner, claim 1 has been amended to recite the paint roller pan which has a depth to completely enclose the roller and a planar cover which is sufficiently pliable to allow a center section to be depressed prior to sealing the cover on the pan to expel excess air for allowing safe storage of the contents. It is believed that there is nothing in the art of record to suggest this configuration.

Claims 2-7 have been canceled and replaced by a new method claim 11 which includes all of the structure of claim 1 and is directed to the step of depressing a mid section of the cover prior to sealing to expel excess air to extend the storage period of the contents of the pan. None of the references of record appear to suggest this method.

As the new method claim 11 includes substantially all of the structure of claim 1, it is urged that this claim should be examined in this application.

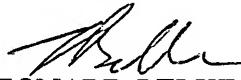
It is believed that the claims as amended clearly distinguish over the art of record and should be allowed.

Kilian
10/732,749

A conscientious effort has been made to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned or Mr. Kroll if further changes are required to obtain allowance of the application.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



LEONARD BELKIN

Reg. No. 18,063

Tel 254-951-8549

For

Michael I. Kroll

Reg. No. 26,755

171 Stillwell Lane

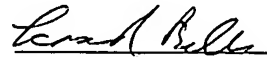
Syosset, New York 11791

Tel 516-367-7777

Dated: Jan. 3, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Mail Stop Amendment PO BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on Jan 3, 2006.



Leonard Belkin